

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W

----- 078394

R 041523Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8126

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 2089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT PDEV VC

SUBJ: ST. VINCENT MOVES CLOSER TO INDEPENDENCE

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1946, 1951

1. REUTER'S REPORT FROM KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT, PUBLISHED BY LOCAL DAILY ADVOCATE-NEWS THIS MORNING, QUOTES BOTH PREMIER JAMES MITCHELL AND OPPOSITION LEADER MILTON CATO (WHO IS EXPECTED TO WIN UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION AND REPLACE MITCHELL) AS FAVORING INDEPENDENCE FOR ST. VINCENT. ACCORDING TO REPORT, MITCHELL HAS SAID: "I HOPE THIS IS THE LAST ELECTION HELD IN ST. VINCENT UNDER THE ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD CONSTITUTION." CATO IS QUOTED AS DECLARING: "THE ST. VINCENT LABOUR PARTY IS COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF FULL INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTEGRATED WEST INDIAN NATION OR IF NECESSARY ON ITS OWN DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS."

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS, LEADERS OF ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, AND ST. LUCIA HAVE ALL RECENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE.

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APPARENTLY, VINCENTIAN LEADERS FEEL COMPELLED BY LOCAL POLITICAL

PRESSURES TO FOLLOW SUIT, EVEN THOUGH IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ME IN SEPTEMBER BOTH MITCHELL AND CATO STATED OPINION THAT ST. VINCENT WOULD BE UNWISE TO SEEK INDEPENDENCE ALONE, AND, IN MITCHELL'S CASE, DOUBT WAS EVEN EXPRESSED WITH REGARD TO INDEPENDENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH OTHERS.

SIMMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRIDGE02089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740352-0139
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741262/aaaacbfc.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRIDGETOWN 1946, 1951
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ST. VINCENT MOVES CLOSER TO INDEPENDENCE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PDEV, VC, (MITCHELL, JAMES), (CATO, MILTON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005